

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΑΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ

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ΣΤ' ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ (ΤΟΥ ΤΥΦΛΟΥ) - 6th SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

THE ANSWER OF HUMILITY

In the Gospel passage of the Sunday of the Blind Man, a wonderful event is presented. A man born blind regains his sight through the miraculous intervention of Jesus Christ. And the fact of his healing becomes the starting end of the gospel reading is expressed through the confession of his faith. Christ asks him: "Do you believe in the Son of God?". And the blind man then manages to see not only what is earthly, but also the light of the Godhead: "I believe Lord; and he worshipped him. This fact is a blessed opportunity, so that we too, as Orthodox people, can reflect on our faith and renew the promise we gave on. Many times, disappointed by human and everyday things, we worry about the presence of God in our lives. We ask for signs, to believe. Even when the Lord was on the Cross, people teased Him and blasphemed Him saying: "If You are the Son of God, come down from the Cross and we will believe in You". But the Lord did not answer. He remained, "in silence", on the Cross and died so that man might live, and he resurrected in order to open the door of Paradise and lead man to the life of God.

The silence of God

The proofs we often ask for in order to believe in God, injure the truth, the loving relationship with God, and that is why the Lord's refusal is direct and categorical (Mark 8:12). God came into the world, but He is hidden even in His manifestation. God responds with silence, but for those who can understand, can feel in this silence, He declares His love for man. It is God's "foolishness", the incomprehensible respect for our freedom. Every forced proof forces the human conscience, turns faith into simple knowledge. That is why God closes Himself in the silence of His hurting love. God does not give orders. He invites us into a relationship of reciprocity. The Father is a Father, without imposing his paternity. Christ comes to sit at the "table of sinners," and is crucified out of an excess of erotic goodness. "What husband," asks an ascetic writer of the 6th century, "ever died for his wife, and what wife ever chose to marry a crucified one?" The Lord espoused the Church, gave her a dowry with His blood, and forged a ring for her with the nails of His crucifixion". God's love for man is so great. Church, gave her a dowry with His blood, and forged a ring for her with the nails of His crucifixion". God's love for man is so great.

Do you believe?

Christ never appeals to logic, He does not cite proofs, nor arguments, He does not ask: "Do you know? Were you convinced? Were you defeated?" The only thing He asks is: "Do you believe?" And to this question only a pure heart can answer: "I believe, Lord, help my unbelief." So, while we are burdened by time when loneliness is weighing us down, only deep humility comes to our aid. This humility makes a person submit his entire being before the Cross of Christ. And then suddenly Christ lifts this burden for us: "Learn from me... for my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30). And this word is not a deception; it is a "Do you know? Were you convinced? Were you defeated?" The only thing He asks is: "Do you believe?" And to this question only a pure heart can answer: "I believe, Lord, help my unbelief." So, while we are burdened by doubt about the presence of God, at the time when loneliness is weighing us down, only deep humility comes to our aid. This humility makes a person submit his entire being before the Cross of Christ. And then suddenly Christ lifts this burden for us: "Learn from me... for my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30). And this word is not a deception; it is a light in the hell of today's world .

Η ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΤΑΠΕΙΝΩΣΗΣ

Στήν εὐαγγελική περικοπή τῆς Κυριακῆς τοῦ Τυφλοῦ παρουσιάζεται ἓνα θαυμαστό γεγονός. Ἕνας ἐκ γενετῆς τυφλός ἀποκτᾷ μέ τήν θαυματουργική ἐπέμβαση τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τήν ὄρασή του. Καί τό γεγονός τῆς θεραπείας του γίνεται ἀφετηρία σωτηρίας, ἡ ὁποία στό τέλος τοῦ εὐαγγελικοῦ ἀναγνώσματος ἐκφράζεται διά τῆς ὁμολογίας τῆς πίστεώς του. Ὁ Χριστός τόν ρωτᾷ: «Σύ πιστεύεις εἰς τόν Υἱόν τοῦ Θεοῦ;». Καί ὁ τυφλός τότε κατορθώνει νά δεῖ ὄχι μόνο τό ἐπίγειο, ἀλλά καί τό φῶς τῆς Θεότητος: «Πιστεύω Κύριε· καί προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ». Τό γεγονός αὐτό ἀποτελεῖ μιά εὐλογημένη εὐκαιρία, ἔτσι ὥστε καί ἐμεῖς, ὡς ὀρθόδοξοι ἄνθρωποι, νά προβληματιστοῦμε γιά τήν πίστη μας καί νά ἀνανεώσουμε τήν ὑπόσχεση πού δώσαμε κατά τήν ἡμέρα τῆς βαπτίσεώς μας. Πολλές φορές, ἀπογοητευμένοι ἀπό τά ἀνθρώπινα καί τά καθημερινά, προβληματιζόμαστε γιά τήν παρουσία τοῦ Θεοῦ στήν ζωή μας. Ζητᾷμε σημεῖα, γιά νά πιστέψουμε. Ἀκόμη κι ὅταν ὁ Κύριος βρισκόταν ἐπάνω στόν Σταυρό, οἱ ἄνθρωποι Τόν πείραζαν καί Τόν βλασφημοῦσαν λέγοντας: «Ἐάν εἶσαι υἱός τοῦ Θεοῦ, κατέβα ἀπό τόν Σταυρό καί θά πιστέψουμε σέ Σένα». Ὅμως ὁ Κύριος δέν ἀπάντησε. Παρέμεινε, «ἐν σιωπῇ», στόν Σταυρό καί πέθανε, γιά νά ζήσει ὁ ἄνθρωπος, καί ἀναστήθηκε, γιά νά ἀνοίξει τήν θύρα τοῦ Παραδείσου καί νά ὀδηγήσει τόν ἄνθρωπο στήν ζωή τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ἡ σιωπή τοῦ Θεοῦ

Οἱ ἀποδείξεις πού ζητᾷμε πολλές φορές, γιά νά πιστέψουμε στόν Θεό, τραυματίζουν τήν ἀλήθεια, τήν ἀγαπητική σχέση μέ τόν Θεό, καί γι' αὐτό ἡ ἄρνηση τοῦ Κυρίου εἶναι ἄμεση καί κατηγορηματική (Μάρκ. 8,12). Ὁ Θεός ἤλθε στόν κόσμο, ἀλλά κρύβεται ἀκόμη καί μέσα στήν φανέρωσή Του. Ὁ Θεός ἀποκρίνεται μέ τήν σιωπή, ἀλλά γιά ἐκεῖνον πού μπορεῖ νά καταλάβει, νά νιώσει, μέσα σ' αὐτή τήν σιωπή δηλώνει τήν ἀγάπη Του γιά τόν ἄνθρωπο. Εἶναι ἡ «μωρία» τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀκατανόητος σεβασμός στήν ἐλευθερία μας. Κάθε ἀναγκαστική ἀπόδειξη βιάζει τήν ἀνθρώπινη συνείδηση, μεταβάλλει τήν πίστη σέ ἀπλή γνώση. Γι' αὐτό ὁ Θεός κλείνεται μέσα στήν σιωπή τῆς ὀδυνώμενης ἀγάπης Του. Ὁ Θεός δέν δίνει διαταγές. Μᾶς προσκαλεῖ σέ μιά σχέση ἀμοιβαιότητας. Ὁ Πατέρας εἶναι Πατέρας χωρίς νά ἐπιβάλλει τήν πατρότητά του. Ὁ Χριστός ἔρχεται γιά νά καθίσει στό «τραπέζι τῶν ἁμαρτωλῶν», καί σταυρώνεται ἀπό ὑπερβολή ἐρωτικής ἀγαθότητας. «Ποιός σύζυγος», ρωτᾷ ἓνας ἀσκητικός συγγραφέας τοῦ βου αἰ., «πέθανε ποτέ γιά τήν σύζυγό του, καί ποιά σύζυγος διάλεξε ποτέ νά παντρευτεῖ ἓναν ἐσταυρωμένο; Ὁ Κύριος μνηστεύθηκε τήν Ἐκκλησία, τῆς ἔδωσε μιά προίκα μέ τό αἷμα Του, καί τῆς σφυρηλάτησε ἓνα δαχτυλίδι μέ τά καρφιά τῆς σταυρώσεώς Του». Τόσο μεγάλη εἶναι ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ γιά τόν ἄνθρωπο.

Σύ, πιστεύεις;

Ὁ Χριστός δέν ἀπευθύνεται ποτέ στήν λογική, δέν παραθέτει ἀποδείξεις, μήτε ἐπιχειρήματα, δέν ρωτᾷ: «Ξέρεις; Πείστηκες; Νικήθηκες;». Τό μόνο πού ρωτᾷ εἶναι: «Πιστεύεις;». Καί στό ἐρώτημα αὐτό μιά καθαρῆ καρδιά μόνο αὐτό μπορεῖ νά ἀπαντήσει: «Πιστεύω, Κύριε, βοήθει μοι τῆ ἀπιστία». Τήν ὥρα, λοιπόν, πού μᾶς βαραίνει ἡ ἀμφιβολία γιά τήν παρουσία τοῦ Θεοῦ, τήν ὥρα πού μᾶς βαραίνει ἡ μοναξιά, μόνο ἡ βαθιά ταπείνωση ἔρχεται σέ βοήθειά μας. Αὐτή, ἡ ταπείνωση, κάνει τόν ἄνθρωπο νά καταθέτει μπροστά στόν Σταυρό τοῦ Χριστοῦ ὀλόκληρο τό εἶναι του. Καί τότε ἔξαφνα ὁ Χριστός σηκώνει ἀντί γιά ἐμᾶς αὐτό τό βᾶρος: «Μάθετε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ... ὅτι ὁ ζυγός μου χρηστός καί τό φορτίον μου ἑλαφρόν ἐστι» (Ματθ. 11,30). Καί ὁ λόγος αὐτός δέν εἶναι ἀπάτη· εἶναι φῶς μέσα στήν κόλαση τοῦ σημερινοῦ κόσμου.

† Ὁ. Φ. Ἀ.



Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάζεις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσεις ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὁστος.

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 16:16-34 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, ἐγένετο δὲ πορευομένων ἡμῶν εἰς προσευχὴν παιδίσκην τινὰ ἔχουσαν πνεῦμα πύθωνος ἀπαντῆσαι ἡμῖν, ἣτις ἐργασίαν πολλὴν παρεῖχε τοῖς κυρίοις αὐτῆς μαντευομένη. αὕτη κατακολουθήσασα τῷ Παύλῳ καὶ τῷ Σίλῳ ἔκραζε λέγουσα· οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι δοῦλοι τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου εἰσίν, οἵτινες καταγγέλλουσιν ἡμῖν ὁδὸν σωτηρίας. τοῦτο δὲ ἐποίει ἐπὶ πολλὰς ἡμέρας. διαπονηθεὶς δὲ ὁ Παῦλος καὶ ἐπιστρέψας τῷ πνεύματι εἶπε· παραγγέλλω σοι ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐξελθεῖν ἀπ' αὐτῆς. καὶ ἐξῆλθεν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ. Ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ κύριοι αὐτῆς ὅτι ἐξῆλθεν ἢ ἐλπίς τῆς ἐργασίας αὐτῶν, ἐπιλαβόμενοι τὸν Παῦλον καὶ τὸν Σίλαν εἵλκυσαν εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἄρχοντας, καὶ προσαγαγόντες αὐτοὺς τοῖς στρατηγοῖς εἶπον· οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἐκταράσσουσιν ἡμῶν τὴν πόλιν Ἰουδαῖοι ὑπάρχοντες, καὶ καταγγέλλουσιν ἔθνη ἃ οὐκ ἔξεστιν ἡμῖν παραδέχεσθαι οὐδὲ ποιεῖν Ῥωμαίοις οὕσι. καὶ συνεπέστη ὁ ὄχλος κατ' αὐτῶν. καὶ οἱ στρατηγοὶ περιρρήξαντες αὐτῶν τὰ ἰμάτια ἐκέλευον ῥαβδίσειν, πολλὰς τε ἐπιθέντες αὐτοῖς πληγὰς ἔβαλον εἰς φυλακὴν, παραγγείλαντες τῷ δεσμοφύλακι ἀσφαλῶς τηρεῖν αὐτούς· ὃς παραγγελίαν τοιαύτην εἰληφὼς ἔβαλεν αὐτούς εἰς τὴν ἐσωτέραν φυλακὴν καὶ τοὺς πόδας αὐτῶν ἠσφαλίσατο εἰς τὸ ξύλον. Κατὰ δὲ τὸ μεσονύκτιον Παῦλος καὶ Σίλας προσευχόμενοι ὕμνουσαν τὸν Θεόν· ἐπηκροῶντο δὲ αὐτῶν οἱ δέσμιοι. ἄφνω δὲ σεισμός ἐγένετο μέγας, ὥστε σαλευθῆναι τὰ θεμέλια τοῦ δεσμοτηρίου, ἀνεψῆθησαν τε παρακρήματα αἱ θύραι πᾶσαι καὶ πάντων τὰ δεσμὰ ἀνέθη. ἔξυπνος δὲ γενόμενος ὁ δεσμοφύλαξ καὶ ἰδὼν ἀνεωγμένας τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, σπασάμενος μάχαιραν ἔμελλεν ἐαυτὸν ἀναιρεῖν, νομίζων ἐκπεφευγῆναι τοὺς δεσμίους. ἐφώνησε δὲ φωνῇ μεγάλῃ ὁ Παῦλος λέγων· μηδὲν πράξης σεαυτῷ κακόν· ἅπαντες γὰρ ἐσμεν ἐνθάδε. αἰτήσας δὲ φῶτα εἰσεπήδησε, καὶ ἔντρομος γενόμενος προσέπεσε τῷ Παύλῳ καὶ τῷ Σίλῳ, καὶ προαγαγὼν αὐτοὺς ἔξω ἔφη· κύριοι, τί με δεῖ ποιεῖν ἵνα σωθῶ; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· πιστεύσον ἐπὶ τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ σωθήσῃ σὺ καὶ ὁ οἶκός σου. καὶ ἐλάλησαν αὐτῷ τὸν λόγον τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ αὐτοῦ. καὶ παραλαβὼν αὐτοὺς ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ τῆς νυκτὸς ἔλουσεν ἀπὸ τῶν πληγῶν, καὶ ἐβαπτίσθη αὐτὸς καὶ οἱ αὐτοῦ πάντες παρακρήματα, ἀναγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ παρέθηκε τράπεζαν, καὶ ἠγαλλιάσατο πανοικίᾳ πεπιστευκῶς τῷ Θεῷ.

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 9:1-38 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ

Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παράγων εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον τυφλὸν ἐκ γενετῆς. Καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ῥαββί, τίς ἡμαρτεν, οὗτος ἢ οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἵνα τυφλὸς

γεννηθῆ; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς· οὔτε οὗτος ἤμαρτεν οὔτε οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῆ τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ. ἐμὲ δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι τὰ ἔργα τοῦ πέμψαντός με ἕως ἡμέρας· ἔρχεται νῦν ὅτε οὐδεὶς δύναται ἐργάζεσθαι. ὅταν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ᾤ, φῶς εἰμι τοῦ κόσμου. ταῦτα εἰπὼν ἔπτυσε χυμῶν καὶ ἐποίησε πηλὸν ἐκ τοῦ πτύσματος, καὶ ἐπέχρισε τὸν πηλὸν ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς τοῦ τυφλοῦ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὕπαγε νίψαι εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ, ὃ ἐρμηνεύεται ἀπεσταλμένος. ἀπῆλθεν οὖν καὶ ἐνίψατο, καὶ ἤλθε βλέπων. Οἱ οὖν γείτονες καὶ οἱ θεωροῦντες αὐτὸν τὸ πρότερον ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν, ἔλεγον· οὐχ οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ καθήμενος καὶ προσαιτῶν; ἄλλοι ἔλεγον ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν· ἄλλοι δὲ ὅτι ὁμοῖος αὐτῷ ἐστιν. ἐκεῖνος ἔλεγεν ὅτι ἐγώ εἰμι. ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ· πῶς ἀνέφωχθῆσάν σου οἱ ὀφθαλμοί; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· ἄνθρωπος λεγόμενος Ἰησοῦς πηλὸν ἐποίησε καὶ ἐπέχρισε μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς καὶ εἶπέ μοι· ὕπαγε εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ καὶ νίψαι· ἀπελθὼν δὲ καὶ νιψάμενος ἀνέβλεψα. εἶπον οὖν αὐτῷ· ποῦ ἐστιν ἐκεῖνος; λέγει· οὐκ οἶδα. Ἔγουνσιν αὐτὸν πρὸς τοὺς Φαρισαίους, τὸν ποτε τυφλόν. ἦν δὲ σάββατον ὅτε τὸν πηλὸν ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἀνέφωξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς. πάλιν οὖν ἠρώτων αὐτὸν καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι πῶς ἀνέβλεψεν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· πηλὸν ἐπέθηκε μοι ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς, καὶ ἐνίψαμην, καὶ βλέπω. ἔλεγον οὖν ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων τινές· οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὐκ ἐστὶ παρά τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅτι τὸ σάββατον οὐ τηρεῖ. ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· πῶς δύναται ἄνθρωπος ἀμαρτωλὸς τοιαῦτα σημεῖα ποιεῖν; καὶ σχίσμα ἦν ἐν αὐτοῖς. λέγουσι τῷ τυφλῷ πάλιν· σὺ τί λέγεις περὶ αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἠνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν ὅτι προφήτης ἐστίν. οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν οὖν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι περὶ αὐτοῦ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέβλεψεν, ἕως ὅτου ἐφώνησαν τοὺς γονεῖς αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἀναβλέψαντος καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτοὺς λέγοντες· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ὑμῶν, ὃν ὑμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη; πῶς οὖν ἄρτι βλέπει; ἀπεκρίθησαν δὲ αὐτοῖς οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ εἶπον· οἶδαμεν ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ἡμῶν καὶ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη· πῶς δὲ νῦν βλέπει οὐκ οἶδαμεν, ἢ τίς ἠνοιξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς ἡμεῖς οὐκ οἶδαμεν· αὐτὸς ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε, αὐτὸς περὶ ἑαυτοῦ λαλήσει. ταῦτα εἶπον οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἐφοβοῦντο τοὺς Ἰουδαίους· ἤδη γὰρ συνετέθειντο οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἵνα, ἐάν τις αὐτὸν ὁμολογήσῃ Χριστόν, ἀποσυνάγωγος γένηται. διὰ τοῦτο οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπον ὅτι ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε. ἐφώνησαν οὖν ἐκ δευτέρου τὸν ἄνθρωπον ὃς ἦν τυφλός, καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δὸς δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ· ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος ἀμαρτωλὸς ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· εἰ ἀμαρτωλὸς ἐστίν οὐκ οἶδα· ἐν οἶδα, ὅτι τυφλὸς ὦν ἄρτι βλέπω. εἶπον δὲ αὐτῷ πάλιν· τί ἐποίησέ σοι; πῶς ἠνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς· εἶπον ὑμῖν ἤδη, καὶ οὐκ ἠκούσατε· τί πάλιν θέλετε ἀκοῦειν; μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς θέλετε αὐτοῦ μαθηταὶ γενέσθαι; ἐλοιδορήσαν αὐτὸν καὶ εἶπον· σὺ εἰ μαθητῆς ἐκείνου· ἡμεῖς δὲ τοῦ Μαυσέως ἐσμέν μαθηταί. ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι Μαυσέϊ λελάληκεν ὁ Θεός· τοῦτον δὲ οὐκ οἶδαμεν πόθεν ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη ὁ ἄνθρωπος καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐν γὰρ τούτῳ θαυμαστόν ἐστίν, ὅτι ὑμεῖς οὐκ οἴδατε πόθεν ἐστίν, καὶ ἀνέφωξέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς. οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι ἀμαρτωλῶν ὁ Θεὸς οὐκ ἀκούει, ἀλλ' ἐάν τις θεοσεβῆς ἦ καὶ τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ ποιῇ, τούτου ἀκούει. ἐκ τοῦ αἰῶνος οὐκ ἠκούσθη ὅτι ἠνοιξέ τις ὀφθαλμούς τυφλοῦ γεγεννημένου. εἰ μὴ ἦν οὗτος παρά Θεοῦ, οὐκ ἠδύνατο ποιεῖν οὐδέν. ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· ἐν ἀμαρτίας σου ἐγεννήθης ὅλος, καὶ σὺ διδάσκεις ἡμᾶς; καὶ ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω. Ἦκουσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω, καὶ εὐρών αὐτὸν εἶπεν αὐτῷ· σὺ πιστεύεις εἰς τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπε· καὶ τίς ἐστι, Κύριε, ἵνα πιστεύσω εἰς αὐτόν; εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· καὶ ἑώρακας αὐτὸν καὶ ὁ λαλῶν μετὰ σοῦ ἐκεῖνός ἐστιν. ὁ δὲ ἔφη· πιστεύω, Κύριε· καὶ προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ.

The Gospel According to John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.



Welcome to the Hellenic Orthodox Community of St. Demetrios:

We welcome all our visitors this morning and thank you for praying with us during the Divine Liturgy. **While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared and baptized Christians**, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in receiving blessed bread (Antidoron) from the priest at the conclusion of the Di-

To follow along during our Divine Services please scan the QR Code:



THANK YOU

We wish to thank the following individuals who have already donated towards the new heating and cooling System of our SS Catherine and George Church and School. Your generosity and care for our Community and Parish is greatly appreciated. May our Lord Bless each and every one of you. If anyone would like to contribute to their community project please contact the church office. Together we can complete this much needed project.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΜΕ

Θέλουμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τα ακόλουθα άτομα που έχουν ήδη κάνει δωρεές για το νέο σύστημα κλιματιστισμού της Εκκλησίας και του Σχολείου μας «Άγιων Αικατερίνης και Γεωργίου». Η γενναιοδωρία και η φροντίδα σας για την Κοινότητα και την Ενορία μας εκτιμάται ιδιαίτερα. Είθε ο Κύριός μας να ευλογεί τον καθένα από εσάς. Αν κάποιος θέλει να συνεισφέρει σε αυτό το κοινοτικό μας έργο, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με το γραφείο της εκκλησίας. Μαζί μπορούμε να ολοκληρώσουμε αυτό το τόσο απαραίτητο έργο.

ADDITIONAL NAMES

Anonymous
Mrs. Archondia
Mrs. Thalia Christoforou
Mr. & Mrs. Aris Demas
St Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society
Hellenic Advancement
Mr. & Mrs. John Katsanos

Mrs. Maria Kotaridis
Mr. George Koumbiadis
Mrs. Kelly Manetas
Mrs. Chrisoula Panopoulos
Mr. Efstrations & Michael Papoutselis
Mr. Theologos Tiliakos
Mr. & Mrs. John Zias

REGISTRY

FUNERAL FOR MAY 2024

May 7th Alkmini Mengisopoulos
May 10th Vasiliki Masiakos
Fotis Spetsieris
May 15th Maria Symeonidou
May 16th Michael Gialourakis
Katherine Carnavas Cruz
May 20th Konstantinos Billis
May 21st Vaso M. Nicholas Markos
May 22nd Maria Grafacos
May 31st Vasilios Vasiliadis

Our deepest sympathy to the families

STEWARDSHIP – MEMBERSHIP 2024

We wanted to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to you for your support to our community by renewing your stewardship pledge for the current year. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and assists us in the maintenance of the community's programs and services. We are also grateful for all your moral support and participation in your community life. May the blessings of our Lord be with you and your family. We wish you healthy and renewed strength for the approaching Fall season. We thank the 393 parish families who have fully/partially fulfilled their stewardship/membership commitment to Saint Demetrios Cathedral/Sts. Catherine & George Greek Orthodox Church as of 2024.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ "ΕΚΟΥΣΙΑΣ ΕΙΣΦΟΡΑΣ" 2024

Έχετε ανανεώσει την οικονομική σας προσφορά για το 2024; Εάν όχι, κατατάξατε το όνομά σας στην κατάσταση των ενοριτών που έχουν τακτοποιήσει την οικονομική τους υποχρέωση προς την ενορία, συμπληρώνοντας την κάρτα και επιστρέφοντάς την στο γραφείο μας, μαζί με το δώρο της αγάπης σας. Ευχαριστούμε τις 393 οικογένειες που εκπλήρωσαν την υπόσχεσή των για το 2024.

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«Ορθόδοξος Μαρτυρία» στον Καθεδρικό
Ναό του Αγίου Δημητρίου*

Καρβουνάκια * Λιβάνι * Εικόνες * Βιβλία



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*Μνημόσυνα Σαββάτου και Κυριακής
Αγίου Δημητρίου
Memorials - Saint Demetrios*



6/8/2024

Δημητρίου Σταματίου
Σταματίου Σταμούλη

Αρτοκλασία

Καλλιόπης Μπουρνή

6/9/2024

Πέτρου Γεωργίου Πατρίδη
Έφης Πατρίδη
Ιωάννου Κασσίμη

*Μνημόσυνα Κυριακής
Αγίας Αικατερίνης & Γεωργίου
Memorials - Sts. Catherine & George*



6/9/2024

Νίκης Γιάνναρη
Ιωάννου Τσιντζέλη
Αρετής Παναγιωτοπούλου
Άννας Κουλάκη
Γεωργίου Σχοινάκη
Σιμέλας Μελίδου
Μιχάηλ και Αικατερίνης Κωνσταντή
Ιωάννου Κτωρίδη
Φωτίου Σπετσιέρη
Αικατερίνης Στραβολέμου
Πέτρου Σκαλιαρίνη
Άννας Βαλαή
Παύλου Χαραλάμπους
Κυριάκου Πόθου
Δέσποινας Σελεάρη

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ

Κυριακή, 9 Ιουνίου, 2024

ΣΤ΄ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ-ΤΟΥ ΤΥΦΛΟΥ
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ -ΑΓΙΑ ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ
8:00 π.μ. Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

Τετάρτη, 12 Ιουνίου, 2024

ΑΠΟΔΟΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ -ΑΓΙΑ ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ
8:00 π.μ. Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ
6:00 μ.μ. Παράκλησης της Παναγίας

Πέμπτη, 13 Ιουνίου, 2024

ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ
ΑΝΑΛΗΨΕΩΣ
8:00 π.μ. Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία
«Κύκλος» Μελέτης Αγίας Γραφής στα Ελληνικά και
γέυμα- τελευταίο μάθημα.

Κυριακή, 16 Ιουνίου, 2024

Ζ΄ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ Α΄ ΟΙΚΟΥΜ. ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ
ΤΩΝ 318 ΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ -ΑΓΙΑ ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ
8:00 π.μ. Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Sunday, June 9, 2024

6th SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN
SAINT DEMETRIOS-SAINT CATHERINE
8:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

APODOSIS OF PASCHA
SAINT DEMETRIOS-SAINT CATHERINE
8:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy
SAINT DEMETRIOS
6:00 p.m. Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Thursday, June 13, 2024

SAINT DEMETRIOS
HOLY ASCENSION
8:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy
“Kyklos” (Bible Study in Greek) &
fellowship lunch last.

Sunday, June 16, 2024

7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
HOLY 318 FATHERS 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
SAINT DEMETRIOS-SAINT CATHERINE
8:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΕΙΣ-ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY- ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗ

Δευτέρα, 17 Ιουνίου, 2024 στην αίθουσα του Αγίου Δημητρίου.
Σε περιπτώσει μη απαρτίας, η Γενική Συνέλευση θα επαναληφθεί την Δευτέρα, 24 Ιουνίου στις 7:00 μ.μ.

Monday, June 17th, 2024 in our St. Demetrios church hall.
In case of no quorum, a second General Assembly will be held on Monday, June 24th, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

Divine Services Summer Schedule starts June 23rd- Καλοκαιρινό Ωράριο Ακολουθιών –Αρχίζει 23, Ιουνίου

Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία 7:30 π.μ.
Orthros and Divine Liturgy 7:30 a.m.

HOSPITAL/NURSING VISITATION

Please notify the Church office if a family member is in the hospital, nursing home or a shut-in, so that our priests may visit them.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

All church organizations are asked to submit their calendar, meetings, articles announcements and information to the Church office by Wednesday of any giving week.

MEMORIALS AND 40 DAY BLESSINGS

We ask all parishioners to notify the Church office at least one week before a Memorial Service or 40 Day Blessing. For 40 day blessing of infants, memorial, trisagia or artoclasies, please call the Church Office in order to make the necessary arrangements.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Visit our church website at www.saintdemetriosastoria.com for new information, updates and to learn more about our Greek Orthodox Faith.

ALTAR BOYS:

The Altar Boys serve our Lord faithfully and reverently every Sunday and during the many special Holy Days of our Holy Orthodox Church. Monthly gatherings will be held by the parish priest to instill within the Altar Boys the understanding of serving the Altar with humility as well as the duties and responsibilities that come with it.

ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΕΙΣ ΣΕ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΣ ΑΠΟΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗΣ

Παρακαλούμε να ενημερώνεται το Γραφείο της Κοινότητας εάν κάποιο μέλος της Οικογένειας σας βρίσκεται στο νοσοκομείο, νοσηλεύεται εκεί ή είναι αποκλεισμένο στο σπίτι λόγω ασθένειας, έτσι ώστε κάποιος από τους Ιερείς μας να το επισκεφτεί.

ΔΙΑΚΟΝΙΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΜΑΣ

Όλοι οι οργανισμοί και οι διακονίες της Κοινότητας μας παρακαλούνται όπως παραδίδουν στο Γραφείο της Κοινότητας το πρόγραμμα τους, για τις συνεδριάσεις τους, τα κείμενα που θα ήθελαν να δημοσιευθούν καθώς και όποια άλλη πληροφορία επιθυμούν, να στέλνονται μέχρι την Τετάρτη.

ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΕΛΕΤΕΣ ΣΑΡΑΝΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΒΡΕΦΩΝ

Παρακαλούμε όπως τα μέλη της Κοινότητας μας, να ενημερώνουν το Γραφείο της Κοινότητας, τουλάχιστον μια εβδομάδα νωρίτερα πριν από το Μνημόσυνο ή το ραντεβού για τον Σαραντισμό των Βρεφών.

Σας παρακαλούμε να τηλεφωνείτε στο Γραφείο της Κοινότητας σχετικά με την παραγγελία Μνημοσύνων, Τρισαγίων ή Αρτοκλασιών, ώστε να προγραμματίσουμε έγκαιρα την διεξαγωγή τους.

Η ΙΣΤΟΣΕΛΙΔΑ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ

Σας παρακαλούμε να επισκεφτείτε την ιστοσελίδα της Κοινότητας στην διεύθυνση:

<https://saintdemetriosastoria.com/> για τις τελευταίες ενημερώσεις σε ότι αφορά την δράση της Κοινότητας μας, αλλά και για θέματα που αφορούν την Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη πίστη μας.

ΤΑ ΙΕΡΟΠΑΙΔΑ

Τα παιδιά που υπηρετούν στο Ιερό την Κυριακή και τις ειδικές Ημέρες των Εορτών της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας μας, θα παρακολουθούν ειδικές μηνιαίες συναντήσεις με τους Ιερείς έτσι ώστε να κατανοούν την σημασία της συμμετοχής τους στις ιερές ακολουθίες και να υπηρετούν με αξιοπρέπεια τα καθήκοντα και τις υποχρεώσεις που απορρέουν από την συμμετοχή τους.



HELLENIC ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF ASTORIA
ST DEMETRIOS CATHEDRAL
SAINTS CATHERINE AND GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Join Us

HOPE **ΕΛΠΙΔ** **JOY**

OF YEAR
PARK DAY

Sunday, June 9th, 2024
1pm till 4pm

Great Lawn at Astoria Park

**In case of rain, we will meet at
Andriotis Hall at St. Catherine's**

What a wonderful year we have spent together!
Let's celebrate the end of the year and say hello to summer
with outdoor games, fun, some goodies and treats!

\$5 per child

Light refreshments and snacks will be available for purchase.



Register by 6/7/24 on Realm:

[https://onrealm.org/sdastoria/PublicRegistrations/Event?
linkString=ZD1SY21gNzAtN213Ni00YjJlLWVmMTg0YjE4MTAwMmFIMjg3](https://onrealm.org/sdastoria/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZD1SY21gNzAtN213Ni00YjJlLWVmMTg0YjE4MTAwMmFIMjg3)



The St. Demetrios of Astoria Greek Afternoon School PTA
Cordially Invites You to Join Us At



Family
PAINT
Night



Join us for our end of year event! An evening for families
to have some fun and welcome summer together.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH, 2024
6:30PM TILL 8:30PM

ANDRIOTIS HALL AT ST. CATHERINE'S
22-30 33RD STREET, ASTORIA, NY



\$40 FOR ADULTS
\$20 FOR KIDS
KIDS AGE 6 AND OLDER AT EVENT

We will have finger foods and desserts!

Wine for the adults

Juices for the younger artists!



BUY YOUR TICKETS VIA CHEDDAR UP:
<https://family-paint-night-80628.cheddarup.com>
QUESTIONS CALL ELENI: (917) 913-9205



Seats are limited - RSVP By June 15th Online!!!!



You are cordially invited to

St. Demetrios Greek American School of Astoria

Kindergarten Graduation

at

*St. Demetrios School
Petros Patrides Center
30-03 30th Drive*

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

at

6:00 pm

We look forward to seeing you!



LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
"ST. CATHERINE"
ST. DEMETRIOS CATHEDRAL OF ASTORIA
cordially invites you to a
Bridgerton
AFTERNOON TEA

SAT	22 JUNE	11:30 AM
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ANDRIOTIS HALL
22-30 33RD ST, ASTORIA, NY 11105
Entrance fee: \$40 per person
Please kindly RSVP by June 15th:
Evangelia 646-330-8133 or Margarita 917- 416-6706





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**Gus Antonopoulos
Thomas Antonopoulos
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